ST status to certain communities of Assam

2774. SHRI SILVIUS CONDPAN: Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that a proposal listing out the names of certain communities from Assam has been sent by the State Government of Assam for restoring them the Scheduled Tribes status, if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard;

(b) the unspent amount surrendered during 2004-05 under the Tribal Affairs Department; and

(c) whether the unspent amount could be earmarked against the schemes available with his Ministry for the schemes sent by the State Governments outside normal allocation?

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH): (a) Yes, Sir. The proposal received from the State Government of Assam has been processed as per the approved modalities.

(b) Rs. 16.49 crores were unspent at the end of the year 2004-05 from the Plan funds of the Ministry, with reference to the permitted expenditure of Rs. 1069.45 crores.

(c) As per Financial Rules, this unspent amount could not have been earmaked for the schemes sent by the State Government outside normal allocation.

Safe drinking water for Delhi

2775. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that Delhi and other places in NCR have been receiving dirty water from taps;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps Government are taking to provide pure and safe drinking water to the people?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) to (c) The Delhi Jal Board (DJB) has informed that drinking water which is being supplied by them is potable and conforms to the prescribed standards.

The DJB has further informed that with a view to ensure supply of desirable quality of water in Delhi, tests are carried out regularly from the stage of raw water to the stage of consumer's end. On an average, 400 water samples from distribution network, reservoirs, tube-wells, ranney wells etc. are lifted per day and tested in the DJB laboratories. Besides, testing kits have also been provided to the concerned staff to test the quality of water at consumer's end.

Water supply is a State subject and the status of water supply in other States is not being monitored at the Central Government level. However, the NCR Planning Board (NCRPB) provides loan assistance up to 75% of the cost of the project, to facilitate development of infrastructure by the State Governments and their implementing agencies in the National Capital Region. NCRPB has sanctioned loan assistance of Rs. 376.91 crore for implementation of 5 water supply projects in Uttar Pradesh and 12 water supply projects in Haryana.

Extension of Metro to Qutub Minar

2776. SHRI ANAND SHARMA: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that UNESCO has conveyed its reservations on the proposed extension of Metro to Qutub Minar — a world heritage monument; and

(b) if so, the details of the UNESCO's concerns?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) Neither the Ministry of Urban Development nor Delhi Metro Rail Corporation has received any such communication.

(b) Does not arise.